

CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of producing an antimicrobial plastic product, comprising
 - A) forming an intermediate product,
 - B) treating at least one constituent of the intermediate product with an antimicrobial colloidal metal, and
 - C) adding a readily or sparingly soluble salt of an antimicrobial metal to the intermediate product, and
 - D) forming the antimicrobial plastic product.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, characterized in that the sparingly soluble metal salt is selected from the group consisting of silver salts, zinc salts, copper salts, cerium salts, zirconium salts, bismuth salts, platinum salts and/or gold salts.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, characterized in that the metal salt comprises silver sulfate and/or silver phosphate.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, characterized in that the metal salt is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1.0% by weight, based on the total weight of the intermediate product.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, characterized in that the metal salt is present in a silver/copper ratio of approximately 2:1 (w/w).
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the intermediate product comprises one or more polymeric materials.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, characterized in that the intermediate product comprises polyurethane.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, characterized in that the intermediate product comprises further additives.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, characterized in that the additives comprise organic and/or inorganic particles.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, characterized in that the organic and/or inorganic particles are selected from the group consisting of barium sulfate, calcium sulfate, strontium sulfate, titanium dioxide, aluminum oxide, silicon dioxide, zeolites, calcium fluoride (CaF_2), mica, talc, pyrogenic silica, calcium hydroxylapatite, kaolin and/or microcellulose.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, characterized in that the additives comprise inorganic particles that comprise barium sulfate and/or pyrogenic silica.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, characterized in that the polymeric materials and inorganic particles are treated with a colloidal metal.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the constituent of the intermediate product that is treated with a colloidal metal comprises inorganic particles.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the colloidal metal comprises colloidal silver.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the mixture of treated intermediate product and sparingly soluble metal salt is shaped by extruding, injection molding, mixing, kneading or (hot) pressing.

16. (Previously presented) A plastic product made by the process of claim 1.

17. (Previously presented) The plastic product of claim 16 in the form of a catheter.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the metal salt is a sparingly soluble salt of an antimicrobial metal.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the colloidal metal is nanosilver, and metal salt is zirconium silicate.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, characterized in that the silver to zirconium silicate weight ratio is 1:1-10.